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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TEXT
TAGS: PREL, KJUS, SCUL, FR, SG
SUBJECT: BARBIE TRIAL: DIOUF DENOUNCES CRITICAL
- EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

1. (U) SATURDAY'S EDITION OF DAKAR'S SEMI-OFFICIAL DAILY "LE SOLEIL" CARRIED A STRAIGHT-FORWARD WIRE-SERVICE STORY FROM LYON REPORTING THE SUMMATION BY JACQUES VERGES, LEAD DEFENSE LAWYER IN THE KLAUS BARBIE TRIAL. VERGES SAID THAT BARBIE SHOULD BE ACQUITTED "TO LIBERATE FRANCE FROM AN ARTIFICIALLY SUSTAINED OBSESSION WITH HITLER," AND HE CALLED INTO QUESTION THE VERACITY OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE IZIEU CHILDREN. HE THEN CALLED IT AN IMMENSE FRAUD AND FOOLISHNESS, AND NOTED THAT HE DID NOT SEE ANY WITNESSES FROM MY LAI OR SABRA AND SHATILA.

2. (U) BRACKETING THIS COVERAGE, HOWEVER, WAS EDITORIAL COMMENTARY IN THE HEADLINE, INTRODUCTORY

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
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PARAGRAPH, AND PHOTO CAPTION. UNDER THE HEADLINE "VERGES CORRECTS THE IMPOSTURE," THE INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH, CLEARLY SEPARATE FROM THE WIRE-SERVICE TEXT, READ "NO MATTER WHAT THE RESULT OF THIS MASSIVE TRIAL, BARBIE'S LAWYERS VERGES AND MBEMBA HAVE ALREADY DONE THE ESSENTIAL THING IN EXPOSING THE ZIONIST PROPAGANDA, WHICH WAS AIMED FIRST AT MAINTAINING THE WEST'S GUILT COMPLEX AND SECONDLY AT AVOIDING ITS OWN, EVEN MORE ODIOS, CRIMES." THE PHOTO SHOWS VERGES AND MBEMBA WITH THE CAPTION "THE ESSENTIAL HAS BEEN DONE."

3. (C) ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT DIOUF, FOREIGN MINISTER FALL PHONED THE AMBASSADOR SATURDAY MORNING TO TELL US THAT THIS EDITORIAL MATERIAL DOES NOT/NOT REPRESENT GOS POLICY OR VIEWS. FALL SAID THE PIECE WAS "IN POOR TASTE" AND REPRESENTED NO MORE THAN THE VIEWS OF SOMEONE AT LE SOLEIL. FALL SAID DIOUF WOULD TAKE ACTION TO "REDRESS THE SITUATION." WALKER

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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